

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229967
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /051 R

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EA/P:JCANNON

-----082492 112310Z /75

O R 112153Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: KIM IL-SONG SPEECH ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY

1. PARA 2 IS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR 11 SEPTEMBER
DEPARTMENTAL PRESS BRIEFING. NO QUESTIONS AROSE ON EA AREA,
AND MATERIAL WAS NOT USED. COPY WAS PROVIDED TO ROK EMBASSY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION: NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM IL-SONG, IN A NATIONAL
DAY SPEECH SEPTEMBER 9, SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT OPEN THE DOOR
FOR CONVERSATION WITH SOUTH KOREA. IS THERE ANYTHING NEW
IN THIS AND WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?

ANSWER: WE NOTE THE REFERENCE IN THE SPEECH TO THE
IMPORTANCE OF DIRECT NORTH-SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE AND
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COOPERATION. WE HOPE THAT NORTH KOREA WILL RESUME DIRECT
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.
THE US CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN
THE TWO KOREAN STATES OFFERS THE BEST MEANS FOR REDUCING
TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA WHICH COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR
EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION.

QUESTION: KIM ALSO RENEWED HIS CALL FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH
THE UNITED STATES ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. WHAT IS YOUR
POSITION ON THIS?

ANSWER: OUR POSITION REMAINS THE SAME: THAT WE ARE
WILLING TO UNDERTAKE DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH KOREA ONLY WITH
THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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